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FOREIGN-TRADE ZONES BOARD

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OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Boyce L. Whatley  
Mayor

E-mail: boyce.whatley@midlothian.tx.us

March 9, 2010

Andrew McGilvray, Executive Secretary  
Office of the Executive Secretary  
Foreign-Trade Zones Board  
U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 2111  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20230-0002

Re: Ellis County Trade Zone Corporation, ASF Application

Dear Mr. McGilvray;

Thank you for this opportunity to provide public comment regarding an application filed by the Ellis County Trade Zone Corporation at MidTexas International Center, 1500 North Service Rd., Midlothian, Texas to secure Alternative Site Format (ASF) designation and to establish the existing FTZ #113 as an ASF "magnet" site.

As our Mayor Pro Tem Frizzell and City Manager Don Hastings discussed with you yesterday, the City of Midlothian has two major concerns regarding this application:

- As proposed by the applicant, there is no local government representation on the ECTZC Board of Directors. Yet, this non-profit agency would have the immediate responsibility for administering the ASF program in the best interests of Ellis County and its cities, without the benefit of its local government participation.
- The applicant has requested a sunset provision waiver, which we feel may be premature given the unknowns of the ASF program and the applicant's capacity to manage this program in the public's best interest.

While the City of Midlothian recognizes the importance of the ASF program to the national economy and believes that ASF designation could be a beneficial economic tool to the City and all of Ellis County, we do have several concerns regarding this application that we believe may be shared by other Ellis County local governments.

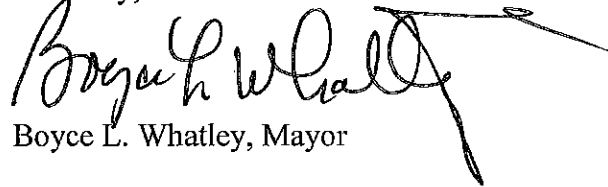
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*Therefore, we respectfully request that the FTZ Board extend the public comment period for an additional 60 days to allow our local cities to work together with Ellis County and the applicant to develop a proposal that best serves the regional public interest.*

Thank you in advance for your positive consideration of our concerns. As always, please feel free to contact me or our City Manager should you have questions in the meanwhile.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boyce L. Whatley", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Boyce L. Whatley, Mayor

cc: Midlothian City Council Members  
Ellis County Commissioners Court  
Mayors, Ellis County Cities